

month, from Mount Vernon, to the Secretaries of State, Treasury, and War, desiring that if any serious and important cases should arise during his absence they would consult and act on them. And he requested that the Vice-President should also be consulted. This was the only occasion in which that officer was ever requested to take part in a Cabinet question. Some occasions for consultation arising, I invited these gentlemen (and the Attorney-General, as well as I remember) to dine with me, in order to confer on the subject. After the cloth was removed, and our question agreed and dismissed, conversation began on other matters, and by some circumstance was led to the British Constitution on which Mr. Adams observed, "purge that Constitution of its corruption, and give to its popular branch equality of representation, and it would be the most perfect Constitution ever devised by the wit of man." Hamilton paused and said, "purge it of its corrupt inn and give it its popular branch equality of representation and it would become an impracticable government; as it stands at present, with all its supposed defects, it is the most perfect government which ever existed." And this was assuredly the exact line which separated the political creed of these two gentlemen. The one was for two hereditary branches, and an honest elective one; the other for an hereditary king with a House of Lords and Commons corrupted to his will, and standing between him and the people. Hamilton has indeed a remarkable character. (> of acute understanding, disinterested, lively, and honorable in all private transactions, amiable in society, and duly valuing virtue in private life, yet so hypocritical and perverted by the British example as to be under thorough conviction that corruption was essential to the government of a nation. (Anas, 1791. C. IX., go.)

HAMILTON'. That I have utterly in my private conversations disapproved of the system of the Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, I acknowledge and avow; and this was not a merely speculative difference. His system flows from principles adverse to liberty and is calculated to undermine and demolish the republic, by creating an influence of his de-